

“You Are Never Above Temptation”

Genesis 20

Hebrews 12:1 (KJV) “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

“A besetting sin is one to which on account of our constitution, or circumstance or both, we peculiarly exposed, and into which we most easily and most frequently fall.”

Principle: You and I are never above giving into temptation.

Principle: We may struggle in some areas of life till the day we die.

1 Corinthians 10:12 “So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall.”

“I can withstand anything except temptation.” Oscar Wilde

James 1:12 “Blessed is the man who endures temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him.”

Principle: You will be tempted. Even mature Christians are tempted.

1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man.”

Principle: It is not a sin to be tempted. It is a sin to give in to temptation.

Hebrews 4:15 “Jesus was tempted in all points like as we are yet he sinned not.”

Principle: I must accept responsibility.

James 1:13 “When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone.”

Principle: When temptation comes, be ready.

James 1:14 “Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires, he is dragged away and enticed. Don’t be deceived my dear brothers.”

To overcome repetitive failures you need to identify the repetitive patterns of temptation in your life:

- Identify when you are most likely to be tempted.
- Identify where you are most likely to be tempted.
- Identify who is with you when you are the most likely to be tempted.
- Identify what you perceive the temporary benefits are when you give in to the temptation.
- Identify how you are feeling at the time of your temptation.

Principle: You prepare for temptation by understanding how it operates.

2 Corinthians 2:11 “In order that Satan might not outwit us, we are not unaware of his schemes.”

Four steps that the devil uses in order to tempt you:

1. Desire

James 1:14 “Each one is tempted when, by his own evil desires...”

2. Deception

James 1:14 "He is dragged away and enticed..."

3. Disobedience

James 1:15 "Then after desire has conceived it gives birth to sin."

4. Death

James 1:15 "Sin, when full grown gives birth to death."

Principle: You serve whom you fear.

Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of man brings a snare."

Isaiah 51:7-13 "Listen to me, you who know righteousness, you people in whose heart is my law: Do not fear the reproach of men, nor be afraid of their insults...who are you that you should be afraid of a man who will die, and the son of man who will be made like grass? And you forget the Lord your Maker."

Proverbs 16:6 "By the fear of the Lord one departs from evil."

Luke 12:2 "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known."

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."

How can we deal with temptation?

1. Know that temptation begins in our inner thoughts.

Philippians 4:8 "Think on these things, things that are good, positive, just, honest."

James 1:18 "He chose to give us birth through the word of truth that we might be a kind of first fruit of all that he created."

1 Corinthians 10:13 "God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear."

Principle: Let God have control of your life.

2. Fellowship with other Christians.

3. God's Word.

4. Pray.

You can pray prayers of prevention, protection, rebuke and dismissal.

5. Realize the consequences of giving in to temptation.

6. Self-examination.

7. Don't give up.

"Father, I have fallen into temptation. I feel like a failure, like a spiritual loser. I ask you to forgive me as I repent of the sin that has overtaken me, and I ask that you deliver me from its snare. As I turn from sin, I turn toward you. Help me to start all over again. Help me to put you first in my life, to study your word, and to learn to use it effectively against the enemy, Satan. Father, I pray for a fresh start, for direction in my life. I ask that you bring about something good from this temptation. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen."